

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 10, 20-31 are cancelled, claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 11, 12, and 13 are amended and new claims 32-46 are added.

Claim 31 was rejected by the Examiner under 102(e) as being anticipated by Oden (U.S. 6,862,282). By this amendment, claim 31 has been canceled rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-13, 15-17, and 20 were rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oden in view of Mueller [US 6,650,640]. Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 11 and added claims 32-44 to more clearly distinguish the present invention over the cited references.

In regard to the rejection of independent claims 1 and 11, Applicant respectfully asserts that neither Oden nor Muller, singly or in combination, teaches each and every limitation of the claims as amended. In view of the amendments, applicants respectfully maintain that neither Oden nor Mueller, singly or in combination teach all of the elements of the claims as amended. In particular, Oden does not teach separate memories for storing the unprocessed input communication and writing the processed communication to avoid potential communications interconnection mechanism contention, requiring the use of locks and operating system interrupts. See Col. 4, lines 27-32 and Col. 4, lines 65-67 and Col. 5, lines 1-4. Oden (See for example, Col. 5, lines 44-53) as well as Mueller (See for example column 63, lines 31-46) clearly rely on the use of flags (semaphores) to coordinate processes in a manner not required by Applicant's invention. Mueller does not cure this problem. There is no teaching or suggestion in either Oden or Mueller that would enable one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Oden and Mueller to arrive at the inventions of amended claims 1 and 11. Therefore, claims 1 and 11 are patentable over the cited references. Claims 2-3, 5-7, 11-13 and 15-17 depend directly or indirectly on allowable claims 1 and 11 and are patentable for at least the same reasons claims 1 and 11 are patentable.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BP', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brad Pedersen
Registration No. 32,432

Customer No. 24113
Patterson, Thunte, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.
4800 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100
Telephone: (612) 349-5774